

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/185,212	Applicant(s) Maeda et al
Examiner Mark Wallerson	Group Art Unit 2722

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-4 and 11-13 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) 5-10 is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement dated 3/22/99 have been considered by the Examiner and is attached to this Office Action.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 10 of the claim, "said" should be inserted before "image data". Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

5. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

7. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et. al. (hereinafter referred to as Suzuki) (U. S. 5,923,013).

With respect to claim 1, Suzuki discloses an image processing device (72) comprising image data input means (76 or 110, figure 12) for inputting image data; image data storage means (12 or 90) for storing the image data (column 2, lines 15-16 and column 8, lines 36-41); image data confirmation (identifying) means (78) for confirming (identifying) the characteristics (content) of the image data (column 5, lines 14-19; column 6, lines 56-64, and column 8, lines 11-28); management table means (92 and figure 13) for managing the characteristics of each image data as management information of image data (column 8, lines 46-49 and column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 9) with reference to the corresponding data stored in the image data storage means (90) (column 8, line 58 to column 9, line 9).

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With regard to claim 2, Suzuki discloses image processing means (72) for performing image processing with respect to the image data (column 11, lines 19-35), and means for setting a processing mode of the image processing means (column 12, lines 29-44).

With respect to claim 3, Suzuki discloses that the management table (92) further includes a mode management section (which reads on the job description file) (column 8, lines 58-61) for managing a processing mode (which reads on the number of print copies) as management information of the image data (column 16, lines 18-34), with reference to the image data stored in the storage means (which reads on saved job description files) (column 16, lines 13-17).

With regard to claim 4, Suzuki discloses a first management processing section (which reads on the job description file) (column 8, lines 58-61) for performing image processing with respect to the image data according to management information of the management table means (92) (column 11, lines 19-42).

With respect to claim 12, Suzuki discloses that the image data is for use in a computer (host system) (column 4, lines 51-54), and that the image data input means (76) is interface means for receiving data from the computer (figure 12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Morikawa (U. S. 5,960,247).

Suzuki differs from claim 11 in that he does not clearly disclose that the image input means is a document image reading means for reading the image data of a document image.

Morikawa discloses a method of processing image data using a management table (figure 6) where a scan system (10) is used for reading the image data of an original (document) (column 3, lines 15-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Suzuki wherein the image input means is a document image reading means for reading the image data of a document image. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Suzuki by the teaching of Morikawa in order to allow the processing of print jobs on paper sheets.

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Kusumoto (U. S. 6,088,135).

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Suzuki differs from claim 13 in that he does not clearly disclose that the image data is image data for use in a facsimile machine, and that the input means is a facsimile interface means for receiving data from the facsimile machine.

Kusumoto discloses means for processing image data using a management table (figure 11), wherein the image data may be image data for use in a facsimile machine (column 1, lines 5-10 and lines 25-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Suzuki wherein the image data is image data for use in a facsimile machine, and the input means is a facsimile interface means for receiving data from the facsimile machine. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Suzuki by the teaching of Kusumoto in order to be able to control the image processing in a facsimile by utilizing a management table.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 5-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

13. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art of record does not teach, suggest, or disclose the claimed limitation of (in combination with all the limitations in the claim), second image data storage means for storing the image data processed by the image processing means, wherein the management table further

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includes a second management processing section for managing each image data stored in the second image data storage means in connection with the corresponding management information as claimed in claim 5. Claims 6-10 depend on claim 5, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(703) 308-9589 (for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

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PATENT EXAMINER

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